
WILDERNESS PERMIT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When are permits required?

The Deschutes and Willamette NFs are implementing a wilderness permit system for the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses this year. In 2020 the season for wilderness permits will begin on May 22nd and end on September 25th. Every year the season will be from the Friday prior to Memorial Day to the last Friday in September.

How do people get permits?

All reservations for a limited entry permit need to be made through Recreation.gov either on-line, by calling, or by doing the reservation at one of the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests' offices. We want to encourage people to take advantage of getting permits online – "go on-line, don't stand in line."

Reservations for limited entry permits will open on Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 a.m. Every year permit reservations will be available beginning the first Tuesday in April.

There is a \$1.00 processing charge for day-use permits per individual and a \$6.00 processing charge for overnight-use permits per group. An overnight group can be from 1 to 12 people. The processing charge funds the operation of the reservation system, like processing charges for tickets through Ticketmaster or other reservation systems.

Other than the processing fee, there are no other additional costs/fees associated with the limited entry permit. However, people should be aware that if a NW Forest Pass or day use permit is required at a trailhead, the wilderness permit does not cover that requirement.

How will permits be made available?

- **Overnight Use Availability:**
 - 40% full season available on April 7.
 - 60% available on a 7-day rolling window.
- **Day Use Availability:**
 - 20-50% full season available on April 7.
 - 50-80% available on a 7-day rolling window.

Where are permits required?

Overnight Use

- All overnight use in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas will be a part of the limited entry system.
- No overnight use limits will be in place in the Waldo Lake and Diamond Peak Wilderness areas.

Day Use

- Day use will be regulated during the limited entry system season at 19 of 79 trailheads in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas (see maps).

Is there a limit to the number of permits an individual can have? People can only have 5 overnight limited entry permits at a time reserved. We want to ensure that people are not reserving permits that they may not actually use. Many people have expressed concern about people hoarding permits and permits going unused. We have compromised on the holding only 5 overnight permits at a time. Once the ending date of a permit has passed, an individual can make another overnight reservation.

What is the cancellation policy for a limited entry permit? If someone decides not to use their limited entry permit, we encourage them to cancel their permit to allow others the opportunity to reserve it and go on a trip. The processing charges for permits through Recreation.gov cannot be refunded.

What about areas that don't require a limited entry permit?

Where limited entry permits are not required - free, self-issue permits are required:

- Waldo Lake and Diamond Peak trailheads (overnight and day use).
- 60 of 79 trailheads for day use in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters wildernesses without trail quotas.
- All trailheads from the last Friday of September until October 31.

Are there exceptions to the limited entry permit requirement?

Yes, the following situations are excepted from getting a limited entry permit:

- Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Long Distance permit, issued by the Pacific Crest Trail Association for long distance hikers traveling more than 500 miles along the PCT.
 - Camping is restricted to the PCT Corridor and prohibited in certain high use areas.
- Hunters holding only the following valid hunting tags:
 - West High Cascade Hunt (119A)
 - General archery deer and elk hunt; exemption is only for day use.
 - Scouting and group size: administrative decisions regarding scouting and group size will be determined in discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and following additional data gathering by ODFW.
- Volunteers, while volunteering in coordination with the Forest Service

How will low income people get limited entry permits if they cannot afford the processing charge? We will be offering a few passes that can be checked out from our local libraries so that people can still take a trip into the wilderness even if they cannot afford the processing charge for the permit.

What about volunteers who contribute so much to improving these wildernesses? Volunteers working under an approved Forest Service volunteer agreement who contribute 40 hours of labor directly to wildernesses on the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests will get a volunteer pass, which will exempt them from the permit quotas. All volunteer hours must be accounted for through the two forests' official volunteer programs.

In addition to the permits are there other new requirements?

Yes, there is an elevational fire ban

- All campfires will be banned above 5,700' elevation in Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wildernesses, as well as some areas lower than 5,700'.
- All campfires will be banned above 6,000' elevation in Diamond Peak Wilderness.

DAY USE QUOTAS

Day use quotas represent the number of individuals that can get a permit.

Three Sisters Wilderness	
Trailhead	Day Use Quota Individual Permits
Scott	12
Obsidian	30
Sisters Mirror	16
Devils Lake Wickiup	100
Green Lakes/Soda Creek	80
Todd Lake*	12
Crater Ditch	16
Lava Camp	40
Broken Top	40
Tam MacArthur Rim	80
Mt. Jefferson Wilderness	
Trailhead	Day Use Quota Individual Permits
PCT Breitenbush / Breitenbush Lake	14
S. Breitenbush	12
Whitewater	30
Pamelia Lake	24
Marion Lake	40
Duffy Lake	30
Jack Lake	60
Mt. Washington	
Trailhead	Day Use Quota Individual Permits
PCT McKenzie Pass	24
Benson/Tenas	30

*Todd Lake quota is for entry into wilderness. People frequently get confused that it is a quota for people wanting to hike around the lake. Please assure them hiking around the lake does not require a limited entry permit.

Three Sisters Wilderness				A single Group Permit can cover up to 12 individuals	
Trailhead	Quota Group	Trailhead	Quota Group	Trailhead	Quota Group
Scott	14	Six Lakes	9	Woodpecker	3
Obsidian		Elk Lake	4	Pamelia Lake	12
Linton Lake	2	Quinn Meadow	3	Minto Mountain	4
Foley	7	Sisters Mirror	5	Bingham Ridge	
Separation	3	Devils Lake Wickiup	17	Marion Lake	10
Rainbow	3	Green Lake – Soda Creek	14	Jefferson Lake	3
Horse Creek		Todd Lake	3	Pine Ridge	3
French Pete/Pat Saddle	3	Crater Ditch	4	Big Meadows Horse Camp	13
Upper Lowder		Broken Top		Duffy Lake	
Upper East Fork	3	Tam McArthur Rim	5	Maxwell Butte	
French Pete	3	Three Creek Meadow	3	Cabot Lake	5
Rebel	5	Park Meadow	3	Bear Valley	3
Ollalie		Chush Falls	2	PCT Santiam	12
Elk Creek		Pole Creek	9	Jack Lake	5
South Fork		Scott Pass	4	Round Lake	3
Crossing Way	7	Millican		Mt Washington Wilderness	
Box Canyon		Black Crater			
Skookum	5	Lava Camp	9	Patjens	3
Taylor Burn	6	Mt. Jefferson Wilderness		PCT Big Lake	2
Helen Lake				Hortense Lake-Access Point	3
Jack Pine		Roaring Creek	4	Dry Creek – Access Point	3
Irish Taylor	11	Crown Lake		PCT McKenzie Pass	6
Many Lakes	3	PCT Breitenbush/Breitenbush Lake	7	Hand Lake	3
Deer Lake		South Breitenbush	5	Benson/Tenas	8
Winopee/Corral Lake	3	Triangulation		Fingerboard Prairie	3
Corral Swamp		Cheat Creek		Tenas Lake	
Lucky Lake	5	Whitewater	8	Robinson Lake	3

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